

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PA-02

USIA-15 PRS-01 STR-04 /077 W
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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7803

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS PRAGUE 0654

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECIN, ETRD, XH

SUBJECT: MEETING OF CMEA PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN TRADE

1. THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION TOOK PLACE IN PRAGUE, MARCH 19-21, 1975, MOST CMEA MEMBERS WERE REPRESENTED BY MINISTERS OF FOREIGN TRADE; CUBA, ROMANIA, AND HUNGARY SENT DEPUTY MINISTERS. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, AND DELEGATIONS FROM YUGOSLAVIA, NORTH VIETNAM, AND NORTH KOREA, ALSO ATTENDED.

2. SPARSE PRESS ACCOUNT STATED THAT TURNOVER IN INTRA-CEMA TRADE INCREASED BY 50 PERCENT IN FIRST FOUR YEARS OF FIVE-YEAR PLAN, THUS EXCEEDING PLANNED LEVELS. TRADE IN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT WAS SAID UNCLASSIFIED

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TO HAVE INCREASED SEVENTY PERCENT DURING PERIOD.

3. PRESS SAID COMMISSION DISCUSSED SOME QUESTIONS CONNECTED WITH IMPROVING SYSTEM OF FOREIGN TRADE PRICES, AND EXTENSION OF MULTILATERAL CLEARING USING CONVERTIBLE RUBLE.

4. 1975 IS TO SEE A FURTHER INCREASE OF TRADE BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND CEMA MEMBERS. PRESS HINTED THAT YUGOSLAVIA WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE IN FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALIST ECONOMIC INTEGRATION. (COMMENT: THIS MAY REFER ONLY TO THE YUGOSLAV PIPELINE OR TO A SOMEWHAT WIDER PROGRAM OF COOPERATION, BUT PRESS ACCOUNT PROVIDES NO ENLIGHTENMENT).

5. ALTHOUGH WE EXPECT LITTLE FURTHER IN WAY OF CONCRETE PRESS COMMENT ON THIS MEETING, WE HOPE TO DEVELOP MORE INFORMATION THROUGH CONTACTS IN CZECH MINISTRIES AND, PERHAPS, IN STATE BANK, ON FOREIGN TRADE PRICING SYSTEM IN PARTICULAR.
PERRY

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